The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

March 2010 | Volume 6, Issue 3 | Copyright RCT

From The Editor...

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All the news that's fit to Print....

Due to ongoing supply problems here at the "Loggers Bark" we seem to have little or no stuff to put in the newsletter. Contributions have been slow and erratic, causing the staff here at TLB much consternation and stress.

So, in due consideration of the season, it was decided to go have a brew...

..And just in case there were any problems, we printed out the handy troubleshooting guide featured on page two of this issue. 73 From Gary WG7X

Chris, KE7LDE checking out the operating position at the "Mighty 'DK"

Don't forget folks, anyone with the proper license or supervision is welcome at the clubhouse. Not only can you get on the air, you can also see the museum, read at the library, or get on line! Open house at the RCT is every Saturday from 1000 to 1400 local.

IRISH BEER TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

SYMPTOM	CAUSE	CORRECTIVE ACTION
Feet cold and wet	Glass Being held at incorrect angle.	Rotate glass so that open end points toward ceiling
Feet warm and wet	Improper Bladder Control	Stand next to nearest dog, complain about lack of house training
Beer unusually pale and tasteless	a. Glass empty. b. You're holding a Coors Lite	Get someone to buy you another beer
Opposite wall covered with fluorescent lights	You have fallen over backward.	Have yourself leashed to the bar
Mouth contains cigarette butts, back of head covered with ashes	You have fallen forward	See above
Beer tasteless, front of your shirt is wet	a. Mouth not open b. Glass applied to wrong part of face	Retire to restroom, practice in front of mirror
Floor Blurred	You are looking through bottom of empty glass	Get someone to buy you another beer
Floor moving	You are being carried out	Find out if you are being taken to another bar
Room seems unusually dark	Bar has closed	Confirm home address with bartender. If staff is gone, grab a six-pack to go and hit the nearest fire escape door. Run.
Taxi suddenly takes on colorful aspect and textures	Beer consumption has exceeded personal limitations	Cover mouth, open window, stick head outside
Everyone looks up to you and smiles	You are dancing on the table	Fall on someone cushy-looking
Beer is crystal-clear	It's water! Somebody is trying to sober you up	Punch him
Hands hurt, nose hurts, mind unusually clear	You have been in a fight	Apologize to everyone you see, just in case it was them
Don't remember the words to the song	Beer is just right	Play air guitar
Don't recognize anyone, don't recognize the room you're in	You've wandered into the wrong party	See if they have free beer
Your bedroom is painted gray, has a concrete floor and an interesting steel door. Toilet may be conveniently located next to your bunk	a. You're in jail b. You're in the navy	Sleep it off, you can always get out tomorrow. Don't talk to your new roommate, and under no circumstances sleep on your stomach
You are dancing to a Village People song, and your partner is wearing leather chaps	You're in a gay bar	Keeping your back to the wall, edge toward nearest exit. Do not accept offers for backrubs
Your singing sounds distorted	The beer is too weak	Have more beer until your voice improves

M I N U TE S
Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors
February 3, 2010

Call to order President Jill called the meeting to order at: 7:07 PM.

Roll Call: Jill Palmer, Rick Rose, Si Nelson, Harry Adams, Gary McAdams, Joe Lester,b Frank Palmer Al Lentz, Ken Gibson. Parliamentarian, Peter Baker was also present.

Correct & Approve Past Meeting Minutes: Harry Adams motioned to approve the minutes. Si Nelson Seconded the motion. A vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Officer's Reports

President. Jill reported that streamlining of the Board meetings was underway. Business of the Board would be conducted first, and then visitors would have opportunities to bring items to the meeting via Board members. Jill asked about illness and silent key. Al Burleson was reported to have had a fall.

Vice President. None

Secretary:. Ken Gibson delivered the correspondence report. Usual correspondence, including bank statements, insurance, etc.

Treasurer. Joe Lester provided the Treasurers' report. Noted the club checking account balance stands at $7,726.46. Joe submitted monthly financial summary report, cash flow report, and budget and long range plan. Joe discussed the Budget and Long Range Plan & noted that this was a requirement of bylaws. Ken Gibson asked about the Salmon Run Fundraiser being under program activity income versus contributions income. The item will be moved to contributions. Harry asked about why the insurance was lower. Joe responded that it was a timing issue. Si asked about possible inflationary pressure. Joe said he's not seen indication that this should be a problem.
Ken Gibson made motion to approve budget and long range plan as presented. Alan Lentz seconded it. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports
Standing Committees Reports – None

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Library Committee – Doug Oakman. Presented library annual report. See the attached report.

Repeater Committee – Alan Lentz reported that the committee reviewed the N7QHX site and repeater. Repeater manufacturer does not exist and the repeater does have an issue. Cannot change the ID. Requested $700 to upgrade. Examining moving Crawford Mountain repeater closer to town. Si Nelson moved to accept the N7QHX repeater. Rick Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Frank Palmer to allocate up to $700 for repeater repair/replacement. Harry Adams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Lester moved to amend the budget to increase the line item maintenance repair from $100 to $800. Gary McAdams seconded the motion. The was voted on and passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

Jill announced that Steve Morton will chair W7DK at the Fair. Steve has also volunteered to Chair the Education committees. Harry motioned that Steve Morton be approved as Education Coordinator and two other members. Alan Lentz Seconded the motion. Si Nelson made a motion to amend the motion to include three to five members be on the committee. Motion to amend failed. Motion to postpone the original motion by Joe Lester. Ken Gibson seconded the motion. [bring back to unfinished business] Discussion: Rick Rose discussed not imposing a committee unless Steve Morton wanted it. Four voted in favor of postponement. Three voted against. One abstention. The Motion to postpone passed.
Frank Palmer has volunteered to chair a Property Management Special Committee.

Good of The Order
John Clark requesting someone to make copies of the Bark in May (45 copies). John has also assumed The membership coordinator of ARES Pierce County.
Larry Watson suggestion that functional areas have an opportunity to review the budget in advance. Suggested also that function responsibility areas have the opportunity to get agenda items on via Secretary & President. Also suggested that Education committee if appointed should have a game plan in advance.
Si reminded people that purchasing ARRL via RCT helps RCT financially.

Adjourn Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58PM

VE REPORT John AC7WW

Tuesday, March 9th ten candidates gathered at the clubhouse of the Radio Club of Tacoma. Twelve volunteer examiners graded 15 elements. Six exam elements two were passed, four elements three were passed with two being failed, and one element four were passed with two failures. One candidate passed both element two and three.

Six new Technicians and one new General joined the Amateur Service. Three candidates upgraded to General and one candidate upgraded to Amateur Extra.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Harry, W7HSA	Linda, AB7YL
Joe, W7RQ	
Steve, AD7VL	Al, AC7BU
Jon, AD7AW	
Rich, KK7VH	Jim, N7RHX
Stephen, AD7AB	
Mike, AD7TH	Bill, AD7QI

We will have a special testing session at the Firs Mobile Home Park Sunday March 14th.
The next scheduled testing session will be Tuesday, April 13th, 2010.

Above, a nice picture of the W7DK big array pointed at Asia… More or less!

Photo courtesy of Dave Andresen W7HTJ

MIKE AND KEY HAMFEST PICTURES!

Above, Rich, KR7W and right, Bob K7MXE

Dateline: February 2010

Sparky's "View from the Shack"

This and that around the club, and more…

Sparky's *welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.*

Our Legacy

- *Our Legacy…*
- *Mystery photo*
- *Some Amateur Radio History*
- *View from the Shack*

This month's "Legacy" section is a reminder that we are into our 93rd year, and its time to begin thinking about planning to celebrate our 95th anniversary which occurs in October of 2011. If you have any ideas, or are willing or interested in participating in the project please contact Larry Watson KD4VOM. We might note here that long time and Honorary Member Dick Ryan W7RG recently provided us with several historical items including some membership records that go back to the very beginning of the club, A special thanks to Dick who was also the primary promoter and printer of the Club's outstanding newsletter, The Loggers Bark.

Mystery Photo

Dick Ryan W7RG has great stories to tell about the Club's emergency operations communication bus, Developed during WWII in support of Civil Defense operations while amateurs were prohibited from operating transmitters.

Some Amateur Radio History

A interesting look back at World War I and II radio communications

World War I lessons from German U-Boats

In a November 2007 Popular Communications article by R. B.Sturtevant AD7IL, he recalls the end of the war to end all wars and the evolution of the technologies developed during the conflict.

Mr. Sturtevant poses the question of whether any possible good actually came out of world war one. To this issue he notes at least one benefit was improved

technology. When the final shooting finally ended that technology was put to work making the lives of average people better and more comfortable. The most notable improvements after World War I occurred in aviation, and communications. The slow development of the airplane from Kittyhawk to the beginning of the war accelerated during the War as military commanders learned to use the airplane for reconnaissance, and combat. Rapid advances in telegraph and wireless manifested themselves with similar progress in both number, quality and trained operators.

When Germany surrendered 122 of her U-Boats the progress made became evident. The submarines went to Portsmouth where four were made available to American Crews attached to a British Flotilla. Among these American sailors was amateur operator J. A Crowdus, who had only three weeks to inspect the German new boats and the German wireless shack aboard one of the captured U-Boats. The radio shack was in the corner of the central compartment and the search began for features and translating German labels. Although Crowdus was directed not to take any of the instruments apart or monkey with the equipment, he then he began exploring the set's the materials and workmanship. The sets materials and workmanship were described as excellent, but the hookups were described as like a Chinese puzzle. The problem seemed to be that the Germans were trying to tune the receiver to finely. As a result, the sets using a German crystal detector couldn't provide as loud a signal as was possible with the American equipment.

Also aboard was a 2kW transmitter which used quench gap, (which was replacing spark gap at the time) Crowdus was unable to get the Tranceiver to work in figured that the former operator didn't want to turn over a working rig to his enemy. There were two generators to run the equipment, one located in the next compartment and the other in the electric control compartment near the engines were situated to assure continued communications if one or the other area was blocked or flooded. The Transmitter was designed for 425 meters at 16 amps and the inclusion of insulators, used the submarine's obstruction cables as antennas. Another German improvement was the development of an antenna using two 35 foot vertical steel masts which were raised and lowered electrically from inside the boat. The German tubes, although well made, were judged to be five years behind the Americans. Crowdus also took note of the key which probably a Slaby-Arco already considered out of date of the time It weighed 4lbs. and three of those pounds were in the lever. A real pomp handle which could not be knocked off of the table during rough weather.

Interestingly enough wireless was never really trusted by those in command positions on either side the generals use the telephone as their main tool. The American Army had been married to the telegraph since the Civil War and the British had bad luck with wireless during experiments during the Boer War in 1899-1902.Germany and use radio intercepts since the beginning of the war were aware of some of radios weaknesses

What do Frequency-Hopping-Spread-Spectrum communications and World War II have in common a Pin-Up Girl?

In the same Popular Communications magazine, I noticed another article which reminded me why I had kept the issue.

The article was written by Bernard Bates.

What caught my eye was a photograph of actress Hedy Lamar. It turns out that Hedy was one of World War II's secret weapons, and is the mother of Frequency-Hopping Spread-Spectrum communications developed and use during world war two. Her secret pioneering work laid the foundation for a communications revolution that touches most of us every day, but she never received any compensation for its commercialization. Who would have thought it? Frequency Hopping radios transmit briefly on one frequency and then hop rapidly through numerous other frequencies in a pseudo-random pattern. Each pattern represents a virtual "channel" and the radio can have large number of patterns or channels programmed into it. Frequency hopping allows large numbers of transceiver pairs or groups to simultaneously communicate in a given area. Hedy Lamar used her married name H. K. Markey on her 1941 U.S. patent application for a secret communications system. Her brilliant concept wasn't formally acknowledged in public until the Electronic Frontier Foundation presented her with a special EFF Pioneer Award in 1997.

Post Script: Those ubiquitous FRMS and GMRS radios take advantage of Hedy's remarkable Spread-Spectrum technology...

Attaboys:

This month's Attaboys go to the intrepid Freeze Your Buns Off crew who keep reminding us that QRP is good cold fun…

View from the Shack…

The New Board has been seated and are busy tackling the business of the club. The Repeater Committee is engaged in upgrading our existing repeaters as well as laying plans for the repeater recently donated by Shirley and Tom Murphy.

Frank Palmer is chairing a Property Management Procedures committee to get our property management program moving again.

Joe Lester has presented several budget plans to the board and is soliciting inputs to the budget process.

Sparky

"Artificial Intelligence is no match for natural stupidity"

The Disclaimer...
These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.

The Radio Club of Tacoma's

Logger's Bark

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Club Officers

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Treasurer: Joe Lester 73radio@gmail.com

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Membership Info: **FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is $30 per calendar year. $25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.**

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5
Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:

MARCH 2010 EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS: Wednesdays March 10th and 24th at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: Wednesday March 3rd 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz.

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz.